OCTOBER, 1936 VOL. 4, NO. 2

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

National Congress of Parents and Teachers 1201 16th St N W Washington D C

Summary of Action of National Board of Managers and Executive Committee

THE BOARD of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, at the Fall Board Meeting held in Chicago, September 16-20, considered many questions relative to the administration of the Congress, including proposals made at the Milwaukee Convention and Board Meeting; heard reports from chairmen concerning their activities throughout the United States; considered reports of special committees; and transacted the business essential to the operation and development of the Congress.

In opening the meeting, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, said: "The zest with which children now approach the first day of school has come about because of the fine personalities represented by America's teachers, by the attractive surroundings provided for children, by newer books, materials, and equipment, and by the fine appreciation and cooperative relationships established by parents. This parent-teacher cooperation has been fostered, during the past forty years, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Parents and teachers working together have been able to accomplish many things for children and youth which would have been impossible with either parents or teachers working alone.

"Not only do children go willingly to school, but their parents go willingly to talk over problems with the teachers. Parent-teacher associations have urged parents to develop fine cooperative relationships with teachers and have attempted to lay the basis whereby parents could assume their just and rightful place in the education of their children. All this has been done without interfering with school administration, recognizing fully the responsibility of school administrators for the conduct and operation of the school.

"Never before have parents been so anxious to learn about schools and what they are trying to do—about education and how it affects their children, and more important than anything else, how they can be better and finer parents. It is this interest which has stimulated the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in its preparation of materials which will aid parents in their study. This organization, consisting of two million members, organized in 25,000 branches in the United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, has dedicated itself through a period of forty years to the service of children and youth and to the development of finer family relationships."

State Presidents' Reports

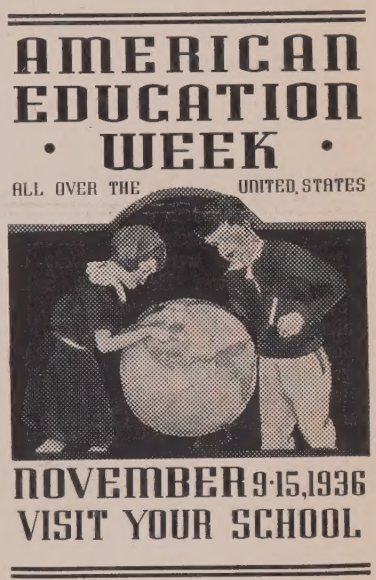
State Presidents, reporting activities for the Congress, indicated the following points of particular interest:

1. Teacher education institutions throughout the country are increasingly interested in the development of activities which will prepare teachers to assume their responsibilities as leaders of the parent-teacher movement in their communities.

2. There is an awakening interest on the part of local associations in the development of vital programs.

3. Parent-teacher associations everywhere are turning to a study of vital purposes in the fields of parent education, and of social development; they are particularly interested in studying taxation.

4. The interpretation of education has become an important function of the parent-teacher association, and units everywhere are uniting their efforts to interpret their programs, plans and policies to the community.



On School Visiting

"Visit Your Schools" is one of the slogans for American Education Week. The need expressed by parents for suggestions as to how they can best further this fine bit of home-school cooperation has prompted a statement, "On Visiting Schools," by Mrs. B. L. Langworthy, National President. Single copies of the statement may be had by state board members by sending a stamped self-addressed envelop to the National Office.

1938 CONVENTION

Salt Lake City was chosen as hostess city for the 1938 National Congress Convention; invitations were also received from Chicago, Omaha, Cincinnati, and San Francisco.

RICHMOND CONVENTION

Tentative plans were adopted for the 1937 National Congress Convention, which will be held in Richmond, Virginia, April 30 to May 7, 1937. These plans include, in addition to the Convention program, a pilgrimage to Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown.

(*Continued on page 2*)

Summary of National Board Action at Chicago Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

Following are summarized reports and rulings of the National Board bearing on some of the National Committee activities; other summaries will appear in the November issue of the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN.

School Education

Miss Charl Williams reported the inauguration of a new educational service to state chairmen of school education, in the form of a series of monthly letters on "educational subjects about which people need to know very much more." The subjects to be discussed during the year were tentatively outlined as follows: Beginning School Life; American Education Week; Organization and Administration of Your Schools; Federal Relations and State Legislation; The School Curriculum; School Budgets; Your Teachers; Educational Opportunity; Check-up on Work and Accomplishments. *Our Public Schools* will be used consistently throughout the year in carrying forward this unit of work, as will the study outline on this book recently published.

Recreation

J. W. Faust commended the "refreshing ingenuity and resourcefulness in getting things done" exhibited by associations engaged in recreation work. There is increasing realization by professional recreation workers that they have in the PTA understanding and valiant allies, he said.

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National President: Mrs. B. F. Langworthy
General Secretary: William H. Bristow
Editor: Clarice Wade

Founders Day and Fortieth Anniversary

Mrs. Fred M. Raymond outlined progress on plans and materials for the observance of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the National Congress as follows: A new leaflet, *Forty Years of Service*, by Mrs. John E. Hayes and Mrs. B. F. Langworthy; a new *Founders Day Ceremony*, by Mrs. Charlotte Riser, including "The Forward Look," by Mrs. J. K. Pettengill; and *The Spirit of the Congress*, a pageant by May Peabody. It was suggested that each state invite one early worker or founder to be a special honor guest at the 1937 National Convention. The *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* will carry features of special interest for the 40th Anniversary.

Mrs. William J. Hayes presented the recommendations of the special 40th Anniversary Committee on the preparation of a cachet and seal. Use of the cachet will be deferred until February 17, 1937, for the benefit of collectors. Plates or mats of the cachet will be available for purchase by states wishing to use it on their envelops. The National Office was authorized to accept from collectors the covers they send in to be mailed from Washington, and, therefore, postmarked February 17, 1937. The Anniversary seal will be available from the National Office for use January 1, 1937; the price will be $5 per 1,000; 75 cents per 100; quantity rates are considerably lower.

Parent Education

Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt listed her recent activities as follows: Editing the articles and preparing the "Helps for Study Groups" for the parent education course in the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine;* editing *Our Homes* and the *Parent Education Guidebook;* revising the leaflet, *Parents' Bookshelf;* and helping with the plans and programs of the states.

Summer Round-Up

Dr. Lillian R. Smith pointed out that the Social Security Act and its resulting increased activities in child hygiene open up new channels for Summer Round-Up activities, and requested the cooperation of state presidents in advising new directors of child hygiene in state departments of health of the entire health program of the Congress.

Safety

Miss Marian Telford reported progress on the Traffic Safety Education Project of the National Congress, which several states have adopted as a special project for the year. In some states local units are distributing the yellow handbill, "A Safety Message to Parent-Teacher Members," to members, together with the membership card, at the time dues are paid. The new poster, captioned "Safety Begins at Home," was displayed and offered for use at state conventions, district and council conferences and other meetings. The new leaflet, *Organized Safety by Organized Parents and Teachers*, is being distributed to local associations through the state branches. New radio talks on safety will be available soon, to supplement the popular talks on "Keeping Them Safe," which have been in great demand recently. The Advisory Committee on the Project is working with Miss Telford on plans for a monthly news letter on the Traffic Safety Education Project which will be issued beginning about the middle of October.

Radio

B. H. Darrow reported that many state Congresses are planning the most thoroughly organized broadcasts yet for this winter. He called attention to the programs broadcast by the U. S. Office of Education, the American School of the Air, and the Damrosch Lessons in Music. Extensive cooperation of professional educators promises rapid development in education by radio. Mrs. Fox reported on the schedule arranged for the National Congress weekly broadcast; this year's program is to be in cooperation with the Academy of Pediatrics and the National Broadcasting Company. The program schedule for October and November appears elsewhere in this BULLETIN.

Congress Publications

Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer stated that the basic Local Unit Package of Congress Publications was shipped to the states during June and July. New Congress publications were announced as follows:

Books: *Our Homes* and *Milwaukee Proceedings*

Pamphlets: *Healthy Children* and *Parent Education Guidebook*

Leaflets: *International Relations; Forty Years of Service; Juvenile Protection*

Congress Reorganization

Mrs. William Kletzer submitted the report of the Congress Reorganization Committee, which will be submitted for consideration of the delegate body at the Richmond Convention, incorporating the following changes in the present set-up of committees and departments:

1. The standing committees of the Congress will remain as at present with the following exceptions:
   a. The Child Hygiene Committee will become the Health Education Committee and Social Hygiene will become a part of the work of this Committee with an associate chairman.
   b. The Budget Committee will function as a subcommittee of the Executive Committee with the Treasurer as chairman.
   c. The Chairman of the Endowment Fund will no longer be a member of the Board.
   d. The Consultant on Money Management will be transferred to the Committee on Homemaking.
2. All departments are abolished.

Music

Miss Mayme E. Irons reported that the Syllabus based on the Plan of Work of the National Music Committee is being widely used by state music chairmen. The PTA Songbook is temporarily held pending the receipt of "new, fresh, inspired PTA songs" from the states; it will be published as soon as a satisfactory collection of songs can be made.

Following Miss Irons' request for a definition of the status of Mothersingers, their set-up, activities, finances, and cooperative relationships, the Board adopted the following ruling:

"We recommend that:

"Since Mothersingers are not the whole of the Congress music program, but a project of that program, each sponsoring organization (council or local unit, etc.) shall provide a music chairman to plan, administer, and promote the whole music program. Such a chairman shall automatically then direct the activities of the Mothersinger project, representing and coordinating their activity program with that of the sponsoring organization. Thus the Mothersinger activity program, finances, and every feature of the project shall be guided and approved by the music chairman who shall be accountable to the sponsoring board.

"We recommend further that:

"Mothersingers attending district, state, and National Mothersinger Choruses shall be required to register with the Convention, paying such registration fees as are required; and shall be urged to attend sessions so as to widen their interests and efforts in other phases of PTA work—information regarding these rulings to reach groups at once before plans for attending such choruses are completed."

Character Education

Dr. Joseph M. Artman asked serious consideration of the following circumstances in relation to character education: (1) The confusion regarding the meaning of character and character education; (2) the fact of a world challenge to democracy and the danger of losing democracy in our own country; and (3) the widespread interest in community cooperation evidenced in the development of community councils. He urged action on the part of Congress members to safeguard democracy as the most basic principle of civic and governmental life, warning that "Spoils politics have become so dominant in many of our communities that we are practically politically disfranchised. . . . Individual agencies are helpless to cope with today's needs when acting alone; cooperation is essential if defeat for all welfare groups is to be avoided. The PTA should study this movement and make every effort to develop such cooperation as will be most helpful to the community."

Library Service

Miss Julia Wright Merrill announced the new library service of the U. S. Office of Education and stated that the National Congress, through its Legislative Committee and Library Service Committee, played an important part in persuading Congressional committees to take this action. She called attention to the maps and graphs in the new American Library Association pamphlet, *The Equal Chance*, and expressed the hope that this would "startle Congress workers" into a realization of the library needs of the people in each state. She asked state presidents to accept the challenge and help provide the present generation with equal opportunity for the informal self-education that only reading can give.

Membership

Miss Mary England summed up the spirit of membership work to be maintained during the coming year as follows:

Attain a high membership record
Retain last year's members
Regain former members
Obtain new members
Maintain a high standard of membership work
Refrain from using petty devices
Train membership workers
Sustain enthusiastic interest

PARENT - TEACHER RADIO FORUM ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

NBC BLUE NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 4:00-4:30 P. M., E.S.T.
Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, American Academy of Pediatrics, and National Broadcasting Company

October 21
Introduction—What Is Growth
Lawrence K. Frank, Associate Director of Education, General Education Board

October 28
Prenatal Growth
George L. Streeter, Director, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington

November 4
Growth of Infants
Harry Bakwin, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, New York University College of Medicine

November 11
Growth of the Adolescent
Horace Gray, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University

November 18
Growth of Organs
R. E. Scammon, Distinguished Service Professor in the Graduate Faculty, University of Minnesota

November 25
Our Ancestors
E. A. Hooton, Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University

International Relations

Mrs. A. H. Reeve announced study outlines for five courses on the following topics: (1) The Causes of War; (2) the Agencies Working for Peace and Their Progress; (3) War Tomorrow—Can We Keep Out? (4) Clash in the Pacific; and (5) Made in U. S. A. The first two courses are in preparation. The last three, edited by the Foreign Policy Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City, and consisting of a brief clear treatment of the subject, fully illustrated by charts and graphs, present very fine non-partisan material. They are available at the prices of 25 cents, paper covers, or 35 cents, board covers. A study outline, containing an explanation to leaders, outline of content and schedule of discussion, points for each meeting, suggestion for panel discussion and bibliography, may be secured for 15 cents; or the entire course may be bought for 40 cents in paper or 50 cents in cloth. (Orders may be placed through the National Office.)

National Congress Legislation Program for 1937

Adopted by Board of Managers—September 20, 1936

(The number of State Congresses supporting each measure is indicated by numbers in parentheses. Report as of January 1, 1936. Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, Chairman.)

1. Legislative Projects *on N.C.P.T. Legislation program* having been endorsed by 26 State Congresses in accordance with Code Requirements.

1. Motion Pictures

a. To abolish compulsory block-booking and blind-selling (43)

2. Emergency Federal Aid for Education

a. To keep open schools which otherwise would be closed without provision for education of children involved (41)

b. To construct school buildings after competent, approved surveys (30)

3. Election of Board of Education of District of Columbia (33)

4. Revision Federal Food and Drug Act (44)

5. Adequate Support of Federal Offices

a. U. S. Office of Education (39)

b. U. S. Bureau of Home Economics (39)

c. Children's Buerau (40)

d. Cooperative Extension Home Demonstration (34)

e. Rural Sanitation (38)

f. Federal Food and Drug Administration (26)

II. Legislative Projects Approved by N.C.P.T. Board of Managers which *will be* on National Legislation Program when Endorsed by 26 State Congresses

1. Child Labor

(Support of child labor provisions of industrial bills such as beet sugar industry, etc.)

a. Support of provisions to control child labor, and when such provisions are carried in industrial legislation support be given *without reference* to other provisions of the bills.

2. Permanent Federal Aid for Education

a. Federal funds for equalization of educational opportunity among the several states on a basis of need after a "maximum effort has been made by the states;" i.e., after states have (1) consolidated one-room schools and small tax districts on basis of competent surveys; (2) equalized educational opportunity within state boundaries; and (3) levied taxes for education comparable with the best practice in other states (20)

b. To provide educational opportunities for children of Government employees on Federally owned property—army posts, national parks, reservations, etc. (15)

3. International Relations

a. Permanent Court of International Justice (15)

b. Reduction of armaments by mutual agreement (14)

4. Oppose Advertising Intoxicating Liquor (18)

5. Oppose Legalizing a National Lottery (17)

6. Limited Federal Aid for Slum Clearance and Housing (7)

7. Support of U. S. Bureau of Narcotics in its Efforts to Maintain and to Strengthen Control of Narcotic Drugs with Special Attention to Marihuana

8. Extension of Merit System for Civil Employees

(See 1936 Resolutions.)

9. Revision of District of Columbia Juvenile Court Act

III. Legislation Projects Recommended by N.C.P.T. Board of Managers *for Study* by State Congresses

1. International Relations

a. Continued study of proposed Constitutional amendment on War Referendum and taking the profit out of war (16)

2. Study Proposals to Establish a Federal Department of Education and Public Welfare

3. Study New Proposals Involving Federal Aid for Education

(Kindergartens, textbooks, methods of distribution, etc.)

IV. For Information Only

1. The N.C.P.T. Board of Managers adopted a recommendation that *"we go on record as opposing Compulsory Military Training in Schools and Colleges." Explanatory note*: On June 20, 1930, an opinion rendered by the Attorney General of the United States advised the Secretary of the Interior that "the policy of the Department of the Interior has been that a state fulfills its obligation under the law when it *offers instruction* in the branches of learning specified in the land-grant college legislation" was not in violation of the Morrill Land Grant of 1862. Whether military training in schools and colleges shall be compulsory or elective is not, therefore, determined by the Federal Government, but by the governing boards of each educational institution. The Federal Government provides funds and instruction for this training when institutions have included it in their curricula. Action of the N.C.P.T. Board of Managers was taken without reference to Federal legislation but as an expression of its viewpoint with regard to the need for local institutional action.

The following action on provisions included in last year's program was taken for the reasons indicated:

1. "Federal Commission to Control Production of Motion Pictures" *was struck out* in accordance with the action of the National Convention last May.
2. "Refinancing of school indebtedness at lower interest rates" *was struck out* since the R.F.C. is not a permanent governmental office and this provision easily admits venal politics.

Questions affecting (1) the consumer; (2) state and Federal relationships with reference to taxation; and (3) the use of alcoholic liquor taxes to support public education were referred to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.

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Humane Education

Mrs. Jennie R. Nichols pointed out hazards which may arise when firearms and toy firearms are used by children as playthings. The Board adopted a recommendation that parents recognize the danger of firearms to lives of individuals, birds and animals and seek to develop in children attitudes of regard for all life; that juvenile minds be directed in constructive, wholesome channels, to peaceful and safe methods of amusement; that the following activities might be substituted for gun maneuvers: Construction of model radio sets and airplanes; shooting animals and birds with the camera; naturecraft activities; games of skill, and other constructive play.